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HEADLINE: Commission approves withdrawal of NRC from oversight of three hazardous and radioactive waste sites

BODY:

In approving Secy 95-056, ''Deferral of Regulatory Oversight to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Two Sites with Radioactive Contamination and Landfill Disposal of Licensed Material From Remediation of a Third Site,'' the commission allowed EPA to assume full responsibility for cleanup of the sites under the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act and other laws. Heather Astwood of the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety & Safeguards told Inside N.R.C. that the action would avoid dual regulation of the sites and release NRC from the obligation to provide a project manager, environmental assessment, and other regulatory assets to the cleanup projects. The sites are areas which are primarily polluted by hazardous waste, though they contain some minor radioactive wastes, Astwood said. The three sites are E.I. DuPont, Newport, Del; West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo.; and Dow Chemical in Midland and Bay City, Mich.

''Deferral would conserve federal and licensee resources, streamline the remediation process by eliminating duplicative agency reviews, and simplify the review process by consolidating regulatory oversight within a single agency,'' according to the Secy paper. NRC will still carry out some limited monitoring of the documents recording the process of the cleanup at the sites and provide some technical assistance to the EPA and state agencies.

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